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**DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO 92 MONTHS IN  
PRECIOUS METALS FRAUD SCHEME**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that TROY URIE, 36, of San Jose, California was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to 92 months in prison. Following a four day jury trial, URIE was convicted of one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and seven counts of wire fraud on August 31, 2004. Parole has been abolished in the federal criminal system, and URIE will be required by law to serve at least 85 percent of the prison time imposed.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles, who prosecuted the case, the indictment charged that during the period of October through December of 2003, TROY URIE, along with co-defendants GABRIEL ORJI, KATIE MCGUIRE, and NICODEMUS BLANCHARD, was part of a conspiracy to defraud and obtain property from victims Sanmina-SCI Corporation ("SSCI"), a technology company headquartered in San Jose, and Englehard Corporation ("Englehard"), a New Jersey company which sells precious metals. The object of the conspiracy was to cause Englehard to ship, by private or commercial interstate carrier, approximately \$11 million in precious metals from New Jersey to a facility located on Northgate Blvd. in Sacramento, which was under the control of URIE and his co-conspirators.

Evidence at trial showed that during the first part of November of 2003, defendant URIE made arrangements to lease the warehouse facility located at 4640 Northgate Blvd. in Sacramento. Specifically, URIE purchased the cashier's check to pay the first month's rent on the warehouse, and directed co-defendant MCGUIRE when and where to pick up the keys and the lease for the warehouse under an assumed name. URIE also helped set up the warehouse, which included the placing of bogus SSCI signs outside of the premises. The evidence also demonstrated that URIE directed co-defendants MCGUIRE and BLANCHARD to periodically occupy the warehouse in anticipation of the delivery of the shipment from Englehard. The scheme was taken down on December 2, 2003, when Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation arranged for the controlled delivery of a pallet, which was filled with buckets of sand, to be delivered to the warehouse at 4640 Northgate Blvd.

Co-defendants KATIE MCGUIRE, 23, NICODEMUS BLANCHARD, 23, and

GABRIEL ORJI, 54, all of Reno, Nevada, all previously pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud. ORJI was sentenced to forty-six months incarceration on July 12, 2004, BLANCHARD was sentenced to six months confinement in a half-way house on September 13, 2004. Sentencing for McGUIRE is set before Judge Damrell for May 16, 2005.

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